



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

Public Service Since 1949

Volume 58 Number 3

www.phil-mont.org

March 2008

Bob Field - W3INW
1917-2008



It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of Bob Field, W3INW on Tuesday, February 12.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, February 14 at Mt. Sinai Cemetery, Bridge and Cottage Sts. Philadelphia
Bob had been a Philmont member since 1981.

Guglielmo Marconi



Birthday of The Wizard of Wireless is April 24

Sunspot report: There are none.

Propagation report: Pretty bad.

WX report: It's cold!

But keep smiling, spring's coming!

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis KB3JWK kb3jwk@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.	Directors: N3MT (08) K3XS (08) W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) KB3IV (A) ND3Q (SK)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net
	Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net.....at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Netat 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Netat 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	

Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ	DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord.: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM	Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU	TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

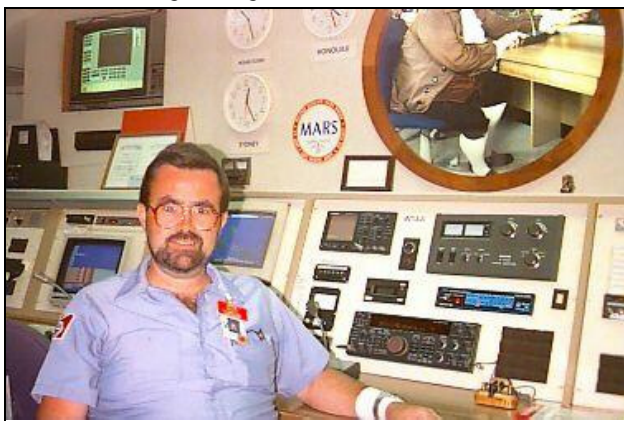
President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

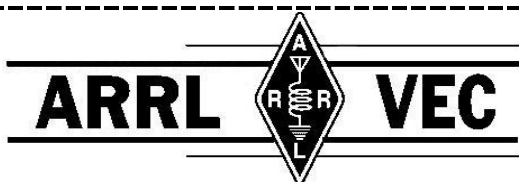
Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Yes folks it's official: Phil-Mont has a new First Lady. Susan and I were married on Valentine's Day in St. Lucia. Thanks for all your good wishes. Here it is March and that means Hamfest season. The end of this month begins the season in this area with the Maryland State Convention at the Timonium Fairgrounds in Timonium, Md. It is a 2 day event that starts on Friday night for some of the more hearty of us. Please be careful traveling to and from and making purchases. Being fully informed is the best advice I can give. It also means the break of the weather is upon us and antenna season will be fast approaching. Start making your plans now and get your equipment together. Please remember to include the proper safety equipment for every job. Safety is the primary concern for any endeavor. I look forward to seeing everyone at the March General Meeting.

de Steve, WU3I

Congratulations Steve and Susan! Slipping off to a beautiful island to get married- that's the ticket!

**Upcoming test sessions:**

Saturday, March 8, 0900L
Thursday, March 27, 1900L

*February 28th results were not available
for this issue*

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 03 Elaine Spencer (Honorary Member)
Billy Campbell (*my grandson is 1!- Ed.*)
- 09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)
- 13 Rosemary Canuso (XYL N2ATB)
- 15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH
- 16 Susan Vece (XYL W2AJV)
- 18 Ed Losco - N3DLV
- 21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI
- 23 Henry Platt - W3UI
- 27 William (Red) MacKenzie - W3RED
- 28 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
Tony Canuso - N2ATB

One new member joined Phil-Mont last month:
Welcome to **Jim Simon, K3JCS**

And welcome back to returning member Jack Wright, K3CHR. *Tell us all about the "golden bagel" Jack!*

See you on the air and at the meetings!

If you haven't paid your dues ... ***you are reading your last BLURB!***..Don't miss out on the Phil-Mont Experience.

Mail your dues today to:

PMRC
P.O. Box 88
Abington, PA 19001

Hey, don't forget, *adopt a pet!*
Or ... consider becoming a foster home!

FROM THE SECRETARY

PMRC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 6, 2008

President Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order 2005 hours. Present were Bill W3AOK, Ed KB3IV, Fred WA3KIO, Mike N3MT, Eric N3QV, Dick W3RM, Al W3STW, and Maggie K3XS. Mike had no DX news. The Board commends Andrew KC2PMW, for his efforts as net control for the Sunday morning 2 meter net. From Ed we hear that he needs to work on a new schedule for the Sunday HF nets.

Dick passed out a treasurer's and annual budget report that was, after a brief discussion, approved. In an effort to get the word out about the Jim Spencer Memorial Equipment Fund, he has engaged help from the club's VE program and will spread the word at the next general meeting that more has to be done by the club to keep successful candidates radio active. Dick also read Jim Simon's, K3JCS, membership application, which was approved by the board.

Bill reports the W3QV repeater system is functioning as intended and improvements to increase area coverage. Steve reports less- than-expected echolink operation can be corrected through some minor equipment adjustments. The field day site for this year has been secured, kudos to Carmen KE3QB. We are reminded to renew our club membership- dues are due.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2008

In the absence of the club's President Steve WU3I (congratulations to him and his bride on having taken their matrimonial vows) and Vice President Eric N3QV, Treasurer Dick W3RM called the meeting to order at 2010 hours. Reporting on the club's finances, we are told that this year's membership has grown to more than ninety members and the financial status of the club is good. The club welcomes new member Jim K3JCS and the return of Jack K3CHR. On a solemn note,

the club remembers WA3UAL and Bob W3INW now silent keys.

We are reminded to forward our directory information changes to Don, WB3KOJ, before March eighth. The PMRC has met its 2008 scholarship fund commitment. Please continue to financially support the various scholarships the club offers, donations are tax deductible. Any questions, contact our treasurer via the information on page two of *The Blurb*.

The Jim Spencer Memorial Equipment Fund and its application: Dick mentioned that, after receiving their licenses, many hams lose interest because they don't have equipment to get on the air. Dick wants to rectify the situation and has coined the phrase "Bitten By the Bug" (reminds me of Jim's call letter suffix BBB "Bigger Better Babies") as a program name.

The program's application would involve setting up a GOTA committee that would purchase, loan, maintain, and keep related records of club equipment loaned to a new licensee. The club's VE team seems ready to answer the call; they plan to setup a demonstration station at the test site (perhaps a satellite station...small antennas...hi, hi) showing what is involved to get on the air.

After a short but very interesting trip down memory lane, with pictures, about his early days as a licensee, his association with Brad W3QV (almost a constant nocturnal visitor to Brad's station), and his tireless efforts to make a positive difference to the PMRC in particular and amateur radio in general it is clear that almost 60 years ago Dick was "Bitten by the Bug."

Thanks to Bill, W3AOK, for not only taking part of his precious time but setting up the refreshment table for tonight's meeting. Because we don't take a member's time and effort to help the club for granted, copious amounts of kudos to Carmen, KB3QB, for securing the '08 field day site and to our new *Blurb* editor. A motion to adjourn was made at 2137 hours.

Respectfully, Al, W3STW

Ham Radio is Contagious.... *...provided the Bug really bites!*

The Bug bit me back in the late 40's. And, after several attempts at passing the code test before an FCC examiner in Philadelphia, I received my Class "B" operator's license, and separate station license for W3PDJ, in January 1949. In those days the code test required a solid minute of perfect copy, at 13 wpm, both receiving and sending, during a five-minute test. The written exam was essay style (no multiple choice), and even required the ability to draw diagrams of typical circuits, i.e., "Draw a diagram of a simple crystal controlled Pierce oscillator showing a coupling capacitor in the plate circuit. Label the components."

Much of what we knew came from reading the ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook. But all practical knowledge came from direct contact with experienced hams, and visiting their stations. My "Elmer" was Walter Bradley Martin, W3QV, the father of my best school buddy from age six on. And, during after-school hours, I spent more time at the Martin household than I did at my own home. Brad was an early ham radio pioneer, first licensed in the '20s as "3QV" (there were no country prefixes in those days.) From him I learned how to build and operate station equipment, as most ham gear was "home brew" in those days. (Recognize that call? Yes, W3QV has been on our repeater system since Brad became a silent key in April, 1967.)

Things have changed considerably since those days. Advances in technology have made communication equipment much more complex. And the manufacturers of ham equipment, needing a larger market to recover their design, engineering, and manufacturing costs, banded together to pressure for "easier" licensing of amateur operators. Volunteer examiners; elimination of the code requirement; more standardized exam questions taken verbatim from published question pools; multiple choice answers ... much like driver's license testing.

The result: Some 700,000 licenses out there...but many inactive. Something's very wrong.

Nancy Kott, WZ8C, is the editor of *WorldRadio* magazine, and deeply involved in CW operating. She expressed the situation well in her January, 2008, *WorldRadio* editorial, from which I quote: "There has been serious damage done to the reputation of Amateur Radio; a license that was once proof of having a working knowledge of circuitry, antennas and propagation has been reduced to a multiple choice exercise that a child can pass after a few hours of memorizing key phrases. I will not even comment on the elimination of the Morse code requirement ...

"...Hams are picking up the pieces and trying to carry on with dignity befitting their licenses. We are getting new licensees into the ranks, although the statistics have shown that the numbers expected by those responsible for the deterioration of our standards are not happening...many of the new people are not getting on HF and/or they are not sticking around. Who can blame them? They were promised exciting communication opportunities and what they got was a call sign and a 'now what?' look on their faces. Some have Elmers, and will discover that with some studying and work, they can indeed have what this magical world of Amateur Radio has to offer. But, most of them are floundering and left to their own devices.

"... The new licensees who don't explore what is available or learn the traditions and the lingo are not going to be hams, they will just be Federally Licensed Operators. Not Lids exactly, but folks who didn't take the time to develop respect for what they're getting into before trying to leave their mark. So, they end up discouraged with a license that gathers dust in a drawer. Local Elmers (mentors) are out there, New Licensees, but they don't know where to find you. YOU have to take the first step to find them. Attend local club meetings. Be receptive. Amateur Radio really is magical. You need to earn the rewards, especially when the license was handed to you on a silver platter."

What is Phil-Mont's Role?

Your board of directors has been wrestling with this problem for many months, trying to determine how we might best address the situation. Our VE Team, active ever since the VE Program came into being,

cranks out new licensees month after month. Most purchase an HT when their call sign arrives, and get on a local repeater. But many soon discover that their new license doesn't bring much more satisfaction than their old Family Radio Service HT did. Is that all there is? HF equipment is very expensive, and where should one start? An antenna ... but how? what? and where?

Get On The Air (GOTA): the ARRL introduced that idea for Field Day several years ago, with some good results. Experienced operators at the FD site (Elmers) help new and 'drop out' licensees, and even interested persons not yet licensed, to Get On The Air by providing a complete operating station with hands-on guidance. This is exactly what your board proposes that we do as a club: 1. Identify new licensees who need help getting on the air. 2. Offer specific help, even visiting their proposed station location, assessing antenna possibilities and equipment availability. 3. Make equipment available, where necessary, on a loan (or, in some cases, 'permanent loan') basis. 4. Follow through to get the new ham's station "radio active."

Where's the Equipment?

Your board has determined that a most suitable memorial to Jim Spencer, W3BBB, would be the establishment of a "**Jim Spencer Memorial Equipment Fund.**" Jim devoted countless hours, energy, and expertise during his 57 years as a Phil-Monter, to "getting hams on the air" with equipment. And, while we are granting a ham radio memorial scholarship in his memory this year, an appropriate long-term memorial would be an equipment program, in his name, to provide station equipment in cases where it would not otherwise be available. (Our IRS tax status as a 501(c)(3) corporation makes contributions of funds and equipment to Phil-Mont deductible as a charitable contribution on a donor's income or estate tax return.)

Where's This All Going?

The board of directors is in the process of drafting the resolutions necessary to activate this program. Our VE Team has been reviewing their likely role as a "first contact" with new licensees who could benefit from our efforts. The president will soon name a chairman to head up a new "GOTA-Plus Committee" to provide this tangible help to new licensees...The Bug Squad? It's a work in progress, now in the final development stage, and your ideas, comments, help and contributions are most welcome.

de Dick, W3RM

The Holmesburg Club has some interesting ideas about this very subject in their December '07 newsletter. Go to www.harcnet.org, click on "past issues" at the lower left of the page. And while you're there read about the FM Sprint they're having on Saturday, March 1st ... if you get this issue by then. Sounds like fun!

MARS news from N1IN,

Those tornados that swept across the Mid South Feb. 5 and 6 carried Army MARS into a new era of operations. For the first time as far back as we can remember, a state government called for MARS deployment in response to an actual emergency. The resulting teamwork gave the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency—TEMA—its only e-mail link during President Bush's visit to the storm-stricken area. That link was the army MARS WinLink 2000 Radio e-mail system. More at qrz.com 2-22-08

AMATEURS LEND A HAND AS DEADLY STORMS SWEEP ACROSS SOUTHERN UNITED STATES (full story at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/08/0208/>)

At least 54 people were killed and hundreds injured Tuesday and Wednesday by dozens of tornados that plowed across Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama in the nation's deadliest barrage of twisters in almost 23 years. In spite of the disasters, state and local emergency management officials once again discovered that

they could call on Amateur Radio operators to help out and get communications up and going again after the infrastructure failed.

According to ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, "Four people were killed in Alabama as the storms damaged homes, caused

flooding and downed trees, and power lines. North Alabama SKYWARN, ARES, and scores of Amateur Radio operators were up all night long, providing vital communications to the National Weather Service and Emergency Management Agencies all across the region. Once again, Amateur Radio operators played a critical role before, during, and after the storms. I am proud of the level of professionalism and critical information that these operators provided our served agencies."

As more ARES groups relay information to ARRL, we will update these reports on the ARRL Web site.

Girl Scouts on the Air

Assistance is being sought for an Amateur Radio demonstration event on April 19, 2008 from 10:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. This event is designed to introduce approximately 50 to 100 girls aged 11 yrs and up to Amateur Radio.

The location of the event is at the Service Center for the Freedom Valley Girl Scouts, 100 Juliette Low Way, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

Needed are operators, demonstrators (keep in mind any demo should be very basic), and manual assistance to help set up and tear down. Some of the basic set up will be done on April, 12, 2008 at the Service Center.

The group plans to have three phone stations and one CW station for the kids to operate with close supervision. Operators at home also will be useful for the demonstrations.

Anyone interested in helping out please contact: Laura Hughes, KB3NSW via e-mail at artforkidstv@aol.com or Charlie Lazarz, KB3HOB via e-mail at cflazarz@verizon.net Please give this worthwhile event your support.

73 de Eric, WB3FPL
ARRL EPA Section Manager

My two cents...

I guess the bug bit me in my sleep. I only met one ham, briefly, in my youth so I don't know why or how I got interested in radio. But I remember how hard it was to figure out what to do once I had that license! (PL? What's a PL?) There is that *magical* aspect. And helping out "when all else fails," and reliving a little bit of history by sending dits and dahs just like Morse and Vail and Marconi did. But mostly it's the gadget factor: I've tried VHF and HF, wire antennas and verticals, phone and PSK31 and look forward to QRP, portable operation, Echolink and CW. (Yes, I *will* prevail over the evil iambics!) If I wasn't so thick headed I'd have given up on this hobby soon after I got that license. Newcomers need all the help they can get to learn about the many aspects of this hobby. I was delighted to hear of this idea and can't wait for the club to implement it.

de KB3JWK

International Marconi Day

April 26, 2008

Cape Cod

Licensed operators are needed to operate at the Coast Guard Station at Eastham from Friday, April 25 at 2000L through 2000L Saturday April 26.

More about this worldwide event next month, but if you want to operate, contact Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, for more info. E-mail Barbara_Dougan@nps.gov or call 508-255-3421 ext 16. (*But don't mention Tesla!-Ed*)

de Red, W3RED

This month at PMRC...

- 2nd Sunday net W2AJV, NCS
- 5th Board Meeting
- 8th VE test session Saturday morning
- 9th Sunday net N3OWM, NCS
- Daylight Saving Time begins at 0200!
- 12th General Meeting
- 16th Sunday net KC2PMW, NCS
- 23rd Sunday net K3XS, NCS
- 27th VE test session Thursday evening
- 30th Sunday net N3QV, NCS

And don't forget the ARES net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater.

Avis de recherche

OK, I know this is a long shot but ... *The Canadian Amateur*, the bilingual bimonthly magazine of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, is looking for an editor who is fluent in French. You can find out more at tcamag@yahoo.ca. *Merci!*

YL quote of the month: "Another cat won't take up much room at all and he'll *never* get rid of that respiratory infection in the shelter!" Yup, that makes five. Sigh.

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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